(b) Coal India Limited (CIL) has taken initiatives to pursue overseas opportunities in coking coal and low ash thermal coal, both of which have limited domestic reserves that can be techno-commercially expoited. The initiative is at a very nascent stage. The possible destination countries are Australia, South Africa, Zimbabwe, Indonesia, Russia etc.

(c) The investment requirements have not been finalized.

(d) There is scarcity of techno-commercially exploitable reserves of coking and low ash thermal coal. CIL has envisaged to invest in foreign coal opportunities to bridge the demand-supply gap and to enhace the energy security of the nation.

Gevra Opencast expansion project

2517. SHRI RAASHID ALVI:
DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have approved the Gevra Opencast expansion project of the South Eastern Coalfields Limited;

(b) if so, whether the total capital investment is of Rs. 1,667.55 crores;

(c) if so, whether the completion cost would be Rs. 1,897.80 crores;

(d) the total production of tonnes of coal to be purchased from this project;

(e) the period of completion of this project;

(f) to what extent, it would raise coal output; and

(g) the States where the coal would be supplied from this project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The total production of coal from Gevra Opencast Expansion Project will be 25 million tonnes per annum.

(e) The project is scheduled to be completed in the year 2009-10.

(f) The output as per expansion project would be 25 Mt. per annum.

However, incremental production will be 13 Mty. with respect to earlier approved Project Report.

(g) Coal will be supplied to the States of Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Rajasthan etc.

Setting up coal-based pithead power plant in Orissa

2518. SHRI RUDRA NARAYAN PANY:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Neyveli Lignite Corporation proposes to set up a coal-based pithead power plant in Orissa in joint venture;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the amount of power that would be generted by this plant; and

(d) how far would this help to bridge the gap between demand and supply of power in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COAL (DR. DASARI NARAYAN RAO): (a) and (b) Neyveli Lignite Corporation Limited (NLC) has proposed to set up a 2000 MW Coal based Thermal Power Plant at IB Valley in Orissa. There is a proposal to form a Joint Venture Company between Neyveli Lignite Corporation (NLC) and Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL), a subsidiary of Coal India Limited for implementation of both the mine and power projects. The Government of Orissa is yet to give its consent for the allotment of land for power plant and other facilities. The estimated cost of the proposed power plant would be about Rs. 8000 crores.

(c) The power plant will be generating 14016 million units per year at 80% PLF.

(d) The gap between demand and supply of power in Orissa will be bridged to the extent of power allocated to the state of Orissa from this project, once it is approved and commissioned.